

## **TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 26, 2025**

The August 26, 2025 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair  
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member  
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member  
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member  
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member  
Judy Malstrom, community member

### **Introduction**

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda. He then asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the minutes of the previous meeting of July 22, 2025. With no objections raised, the minutes of the July 22, 2025 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

### **Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding**

Joe Phelan again this month updated the CSC Task Force members regarding the status of the \$10,000 CEC grant that was submitted to, and approved by, NYSERDA for the Task Force to conduct a NYSERDA energy study of the Town Highway Garage facility and to begin addressing the study's recommendations. The report from L&S Energy Services, as designated by NYSERDA, regarding the energy audit of the Town's Highway Garage facility, was conducted on April 14, 2025, for the purpose of identifying possible energy efficiency projects that could be conducted by the Town and approved by the NYSERDA CEC program to reduce the Town's fossil fuel energy usage. However, due to L&S Energy Services backlog of audit reports, the Town still has not yet received the report of NYSERDA CEC-approved projects. Several inquiries of NYSERDA and L&S Energy Services have been made since the audit was conducted. The Town has been informed that provision of the report is imminent. However, the report still has not been provided, nor has the Town been invoiced for the cost of the energy audit from the \$10,000 CEC grant.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Outreach**

Joe Phelan and Barbara Mansell, the Clinton CAC Chair, met on August 20 via Zoom with Scott Kleinberg, the new Climate and Environment Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), and with Itfayo Tyler, also a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County staff. They discussed additional details for participation in the municipally-based Climate Smart Resiliency Planning initiative to address data collection activities regarding the Town of Clinton's policies regarding possible future crises/natural disasters resulting from the results of climate change.

Scott and Tayo shared more specific outcomes and processes for participation with Barbara and Joe at their scheduled meeting, at which point the process for moving forward with this initiative was discussed further. Another Zoom meeting has been scheduled for September 24, for which additional collected information will be shared.

### **Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report**

The Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) for which Richard Marshall is providing leadership continues to collect data for this initiative, specifically in terms of what other small rural municipalities have identified. It is anticipated that it will be at least several months in process before the Task Force is prepared to make a presentation to the Town Board and ask for their support and approval,

Richard Marshall provided an update on the recent discussions with Hudson Valley Regional Council staff to enable the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force to resume working toward addressing and completing a Governmental Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), with the assistance and support of the HVRC's Elizabeth Sun and Eleanor Peck.

The GOCAP, as developed by the CSC Task Force, and with review by and approval of the Town Board, would address the following topics regarding the Town's operations: Transportation; Municipal Facilities and Renewable Energy; Natural Resources (Water and Land Use); and Waste and Recycling.

Upon completion of a draft GOCAP document, likely not earlier than Fall/Winter 2025, the CSC Task Force would plan a presentation to the Town Board, with a request for Clinton Town Board approval, ultimately leading to implementation of the adopted plan for the Town of Clinton.

### **Future Town of Clinton CSC Task Force Interest/Projects Under Discussion**

The assembled CSC Task Force members discussed several related upcoming activities that have been scheduled in the Town, including a repair café, as well as further discussions of suggestions regarding composting, Town pollinator gardens, a possible shredding event, and ideas for the development of the CAC line item in the Town budget for the coming year..

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair